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(c) whether the Superintendent had been informed in Government Memorandum No. 1000–2, Finance, dated 17th February 1926, that leave salary must be allowed if leave is available and is granted ;

(d) if so, why Venugopal was not allowed leave salary and what action was taken against the Superintendent for disregarding the Government Memorandum No. 1000–2, Finance, dated 17th February 1926 ; and

(e) whether the applicant appealed to Government against the order of the Superintendent and whether he was informed that there was no right of appeal and if so, why ?'

A.—(a) M. E. Venugopal on 1st December 1927 applied for leave from 17th November 1927 to 7th December 1927 on the basis of a medical certificate. The leave was refused and he was therefore absent without leave.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Yes.

(d) The questions do not arise.

(e) Yes. The rules do not provide for appeals in such cases. Discretion to refuse leave is vested by rule in the Superintendent, Government Press.

Alleged refusal of casual leave to certain employees in the Government Press.

* 136 *Q.*—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Arumugham, type-caster, Narasiah, Sarangapani and K. P. Rangaswami, machine-minders, Annamalai, baller, and P. A. Narayanaswami, compositor, in the Government Press, applied for a day's casual leave for reasons of ill-health or domestic urgency and whether it was refused ;

(b) whether the absence was treated as leave without pay ; and

(c) if so, why ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information. Discretion to refuse leave to such persons is reserved by rule to Superintendent, Government Press.

Contract for the supply of articles required by the Government Press.

* 137 *Q.*—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the contract for the supply of several articles required by the Government Press is being given to one and the same person for years ;

(b) whether the price of each of the articles given on contract is being verified with reference to the price of the market ; and

(c) if so, whether he will be pleased to furnish a comparative statement of those articles for the years 1926-27, 1927–28 and 1928–29 ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information.

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" The inference from the question is that there is some kind of jobbery going as regards the supply of several articles. When large amounts are involved, why should Government say that they have no information ? "

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" In my reply to another question sent to the Legislative Council office, I have given the information."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Will the hon. the Home Member make special arrangements to have the answer given to-morrow ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I will, Sir. The number of the question is 275."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" This question and answer will be included in to-morrow's questions and answers."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" With reference to clause (a) may I know whether the Government have called for tenders for the supply of the articles required to be supplied by contractors ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" That will be answered to-morrow."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will wait till to-morrow for the answer."

Fines levied on employees in the Government Press.

*138 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to furnish a statement of the fines imposed on the employees of the Government Press by the Superintendent since January 1928 with their names, designations and the reasons in each case?

A.—A statement [a] is laid on the table.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether, in view of the fact that there were 230 cases of fines within a period of seven months, the Government intend to take any action or have already taken any action to put an end to such a state of affairs ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No doubt, the number is somewhat large; but the solution is in the hands of the workmen themselves. If they do not commit breaches of discipline, they will not be punished."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether, when the Government consider that the number of punishments is unusually large, they do not consider it necessary to look into the matter to see whether it is due to the mistake of the Superintendent or of the workmen ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" If an unusually large number of men commit breaches of discipline, the Government cannot help them."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Have the Government satisfied themselves that these workmen, both old and new, knew that they would be sentenced to fine for trivial mistakes ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government are satisfied."

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a Printed as Appendix II on pages 312–316 infra.